

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 IGA-01

SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7837

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2995

E.9. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EWWT US UR

SUBJECT: UPCOMING MARITIME NEGOTIATIONS

FOR EUR/SOV AND EB/TT/MA

PASS COMMERCE FOR MARAD/ASST SEC BLACKWELL

REF: STATE 049835

1. MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRY (MMM) FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF AVERIN CALLED IN ECON/COMM COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF MARCH 6 TO HAND OVERCOPY OF MMM TELEX SENT TO ASST SEC BLACKWELL PREVIOUS DAY STATING SOVIET WILLINGNESS INITIATE DISCUSSIONS MARCH 10. REFTEL INDICATES THIS MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

2. ADOPTING MOODOF SADNESS WHICH BARELY CONCEALED HIS OBVIOUS IRRITATION, AVERIN ADDED LENGTHY COMMENTARY TO SUBSTANCE OF HIS MARCH 4 TELEX, GIST OF WHICH WAS:

A) PROBLEM OF RUST POLLUTINGSHIPMENTS OF CORN IS CLEARLY IMPORTANT ISSUE CONCERNING WHICH MMM UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND END-USERS IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR;

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B) AVERIN SENSES THAT MARAD IS USING US-USSR MARITIME

RELAIONS TO SOLVE ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS; AND

C) MARAD TACTICS SEEM TO CENTER ON DRAWING OUT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENT IN ORDER, AT LAST MOMENT, TO RUSH THROUGH NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT VIA ONE ULTIMATUM AFTER ANOTHER ON ISSUES INVOLVED.

3. AVERIN STRESSED SEVRAL TIMES THAT SOVIETS PERCEIVE THAT MARAD IS USING ULTIMATUMS TO ACHIEVE RESULTS DESIRED BY USG AND SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT WASHINGTON BE FOREWARNED THAT USSR WILL ACCEPT NO MORE ULTIMATUMS IN FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION EXISTING AGREEMENT OR NEGOTIATIONS ON POSSIBLE NEW ONE. AVERIN OBVIOUSLY EXPECTED THAT THIS CONVERSATION, REPORTED TO MARAD, WOULD SERVE AS GAMBIT TO PUT US DELEGATION ON DEFENSIVE WHEN COMMISSION MEETS NEXT MONDAY.
STOESSEL

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